

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

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SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC REPORTING FOR ENERGY CONFERENCE: ARNE ARNESEN  
(NORWAY)

REF: STATE 13742

1. ARNE ARNESEN, UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE IN THE NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, IS A 45-YEAR-OLD CAREER DIPLOMAT WHOSE ACTIVE POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT IN LABOR PARTY AFFAIRS HAS HELPED HIM LEAPFROG OVER HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE MINISTRY TO HIS PRESENT POSITION, THE NUMBER TWO POLITICAL SLOT IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE HAS BEEN PLACED IN CHARGE OF PREPARATIONS FOR THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE AND IS NOW ENGAGED IN ASSEMBLING INFORMATION AND EXPERTISE FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND OTHER INTERESTED MINISTRIES.

2. A POLITICAL OFFICER RATHER THAN AN ECONOMIST, ARNESEN HAS NO SPECIAL BACKGROUND AND NO KNOWN VIEWS ON ENERGY MATTERS AS SUCH. HE IS TRUSTED AND RESPECTED BY HIS FOREIGN MINISTER, KNUT FRYDENLUND, AND THE POSITIONS WHICH HE MAY COME TO ESPOUSE IN CONNECTION WITH THE ENERGY CONFERENCE ARE LIKELY TO GAIN OFFICIAL SUPPORT. WHAT THOSE POSITIONS MAY BE CAN ONLY BE SURMISED FROM HIS BACKGROUND AND HIS GENERAL OUTLOOK ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS--AN OUTLOOK WHICH IN MANY WAYS EPITOMIZES BOTH THE GOOD AND THE BAD OF NORWEGIAN POLICY AS WE SEE IT.

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3. ARNESEN IS SENTIMENTALLY PRO-AMERICAN YET DIFFERS WITH THE US FUNDAMENTALLY ON MANY POLICY ISSUES. HE SUPPORTS TRADITIONAL NORWEGIAN SECURITY POLICY, INCLUDING ADHERENCE TO NATO, BUT LIKE FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND HE BELIEVES THE GREATEST PROBLEMS FACING NORWAY, AND THE WORLD, ARE NO LONGER RELATED TO EAST-WEST SECURITY RELATIONSHIPS BUT TO NORTH-SOUTH, RICH-POOR HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS. HE IS EMOTIONALLY COMMITTED TO SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN AFRICA, AND LIKE MANY EUROPEAN DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS HE HAS LONG DISAGREED WITH US POLICIES IN INDOCHINA AND ELSEWHERE IN ASIA. HE APPROACHES MANY ISSUES FROM A MORALISTIC POINT OF VIEW, AND HIS MANY FRIENDS IN EMBASSY OSLO HAVE FOUND HIM UNSHAKEABLE IN HIS CONVICTIONS ON SUCH ISSUES. HE IS AFFLICTED BY THE PERVASIVE NORDIC DOUBLE STANDARD WHICH PERMITS GREATER INDIGNATION OVER THE EVILS OF COLONIALISM IN AFRICA AND DICTATORSHIP IN GREECE THAN OVER ANALAGOUS INJUSTICES IN NATIONS CLOSER TO HOME. HIS STAUNCH SUPPORT FOR THE UN AND FOR THE DOWNTRODDEN SUGGESTS THAT, WHILE LEAVING THE SPECIFICS OF THE ENERGY PROBLEM TO OTHERS WITH GREATER EXPERTISE, HE WILL BE IN THE FOREFRONT OF EFFORTS TO INVOLVE THE LDC'S AND THE REST OF THE WORLD IN ENERGY CONSULTATIONS AT AS EARLY A STAGE AS POSSIBLE. AT THE SAME TIME, BECAUSE OF HIS ADMIRATION FOR THE US WE BELIEVE HE IS GENUINELY PLEASED THAT THE US HAS TAKEN THE INITIATIVE, AND WE DO NOT THINK HE WILL DELIBERATELY SEEK TO UNDERCUT US EFFORT TO PROMOTE SOLUTIONS.

4. THE AFFECTION WHICH MANY NORWEGIANS FEEL FOR THE US WAS DOUBTLESS CONFIRMED AND STRENGTHENED FOR ARNESEN AS A RESULT OF SPENDING FOUR OF HIS FORMATIVE YEARS (1951-55) AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, WHERE HE RECEIVED AN M.A. IN POLITICAL SCIENCE IN 1953. HE ENGAGED NOT ONLY IN STUDENT LIFE BUT IN POLITICS (HE ASSISTED IN ONE OF THE ADLAI STEVENSON CAMPAIGNS), AND HE RETURNED TO NORWAY WITH A CHARMING AMERICAN WIFE.

5. SINCE JOINING THE FOREIGN SERVICE IN 1956, ARNESEN HAS HAD ONLY TWO OVERSEAS ASSIGNMENTS. FROM 1957 TO 1960 HE WAS ON THE NORWEGIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AND FROM 1964 TO 1966 HE WAS STATIONED IN RABAT. WHILE AT THE UN HE SERVED ON THE COMMITTEE OF 24, THE BEGINNING, PERHAPS, OF HIS KEEN INTEREST IN THE AFRICAN LIBERATION CAUSE. BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER HIS RABAT ASSIGNMENT HE WORKED ON UN AFFAIRS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND WAS CHIEF

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OF THE UN DIVISION FROM 1967 TO 1971. WHEN A LABOR GOVERNMENT CAME TO POWER IN MARCH 1971 THE NEW FOREIGN MINISTER, ANDREAS CAPPELEN, CHOSE ARNESEN AS HIS POLITICAL SECRETARY. CAPPELEN HIMSELF WAS INEXPERIENCED IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND HIS CONFIDENCE IN ARNESEN GAVE THE LATTER CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE ON POLICY FORMATION. ARNESEN TRAVELED WITH CAPPELEN TO AFRICA IN THE SPRING OF 1971 AND WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE NORWEGIAN DECISION TO HOST THE UN/OAU CONFERENCE ON COLONIALISM AND APARTHEID IN THE SPRING OF 1973.

(OUT OF GOVERNMENT WHEN THE OSLO CONFERENCE TOOK PLACE, ARNESEN SERVED AS ONE OF TWO NORWEGIAN "PRIVATE EXPERTS" AT THE CONFERENCE.

6. THE 1971-72 LABOR GOVERNMENT WAS FIRMLY COMMITTEE TO BRINGING NORWAY INTO FULL MEMBERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, AND ARNESEN DEVOTED A GREAT DEAL OF HIS TIME, UP UNTIL THE NATIONAL REFERENDUM IN SEPTEMBER 1972, TO CAMPAIGNING FOR MEMBERSHIP. WHEN THE REFERENDUM FAILED AND LABOR RESIGNED, ARNESEN FELT HIMSELF TOO CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH LABOR POLICY TO REMAIN THE MINISTRY UNDER A NEW GOVERNMENT WHICH HAD COME TO POWER ONLY BY STRENGTH OF HIS OPPOSITION TO EC MEMBERSHIP. HE THUS TOOK LEAVE OF ABSENCE AT THE END OF 1972 AND WENT TO WORK AS A WRITER AND EDITORIALIST FOR ARBEIDERBLADET, THE LABOR PARTY'S OSLO DAILY. AFTER THE SEPTEMBER 1973 ELECTIONS, THE NEW LABOR GOVERNMENT BROUGHT ARNESEN BACK TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN HIS PRESENT POSITION. BYRNE

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